

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 3 and ending on page 1, line 9 with the following replacement paragraph:

The invention relates to an operating device, ~~in particular an operating device for unlocking a locking unit for locking a media unit of a printer in a housing of a tachograph for a motor vehicle,~~ having an operating element, having a front element which has an operator-side front side and a rear side, and having a recess in the front element, in which the operating element can move, the recess being surrounded by a first contact face on the front element, the operating element having a second contact face which faces the first contact face and is configured in such a way that it is in contact with the first contact face in a non-actuated position, the second contact face being removed from the first contact face upon actuation, the second contact face of the operating element being stressed against the first contact face of the recess by means of a first elastic element. The operating device according to the invention is preferably used for unlocking a locking unit for locking a media unit of a printer in a housing of a tachograph for a motor vehicle.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 2, line 16

Operating devices of the type mentioned in the introduction are already known from the European patent application EP 0 899 758 A2, the German published document DE 196 22 376 A1 and the Japanese published document 2002-343191. These arrangements are, however, relatively complicated to assemble, in particular on account of the elastic mounting of the pushbuttons, and can be reassembled only with difficulty in the case of repairs.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 2, line 23:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 23 and ending on page 2, line 31 with the following replacement paragraph:

According to the invention, the object is achieved by an operating device of the abovementioned type, ~~in which operating device has the recess is surrounded by a first contact face on the front element, the operating element has a second contact face which faces the first contact face and is configured in such a way that it is in contact with the first contact face in a non-actuated position, and the second contact face features of the operating element is stressed against the first contact face of the recess by means of an elastic element~~claim 1. The subclaims contain advantageous developments of the invention.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 6, line 12:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following paragraph on page 7, line 6:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following Abstract of the Disclosure on new page 13:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A splashproof operating device is disclosed especially for use with a tachograph. A faulty seal often results in the entire apparatus breaking down because the fault remains undiscovered. With the present operating device it is possible to ensure good functional safety and seals towards the surroundings. This is achieved by an operating device in which contact areas are elastically braced against each other. In addition, abutting contact areas of the operating element are also braced.